UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/444
28 September 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 103

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Preliminary report on a comprehensive programme of action for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. The World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, called for the proclamation of an international decade of the world's indigenous people. In chapter II, section B, paragraph 32 of the Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights "recommends that the General Assembly proclaim an international decade of the world's indigenous people, to begin from January 1994, including action-orientated programmes, to be decided upon in partnership with indigenous people. An appropriate voluntary trust fund should be set up for this purpose. In the framework of such a decade, the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system should be considered."

2. This recommendation was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, in which it "proclaims the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 10 December 1994, the period from 1 January to 9 December 1994 to be set aside for planning for the Decade in partnership with indigenous people".

3. The General Assembly decided, in that resolution, that the goal of the Decade should be the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly decided that, beginning in the first year of the Decade, one day of every year should be observed as the International Day of Indigenous People, and requested the Working Group on Indigenous Populations,

through the Commission, to identify an appropriate date for that purpose. In addition, it requested the Secretary-General to appoint the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights as the Coordinator for the Decade to coordinate the programme of activities in full collaboration and consultation with Governments, the United Nations system, and indigenous and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, it requested competent United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to designate focal points for coordination with the Centre for Human Rights, and encouraged Governments to establish national committees or other more permanent structures involving indigenous representatives to plan activities for the Decade. Finally, it requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Decade for the purpose of funding projects and programmes during the Decade.

5. It may be noted that the Decade is taking place within an ongoing process of international action on indigenous issues. The Decade is part of that process, rather than the other way around. For example, it may be anticipated that the draft declaration on indigenous rights will be adopted and that other standards will be prepared; a permanent forum may also be established which will give indigenous people greater international access and influence.

Preparatory process

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/163, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights was appointed as the Coordinator for the International Decade. On 8 March 1994, the Coordinator sent a letter to the interested parties informing them of the General Assembly's decision to proclaim an international decade, inviting them to attend the Technical Meeting on the International Year and the International Decade to be held from 20 to 22 July 1994, and encouraging them to hold consultations and to provide him with written suggestions for possible activities for the Decade.

7. A number of consultations took place throughout the preparatory period. In particular, attention may be drawn to the first Assembly of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace in Mexico and a meeting on the International Decade hosted by the Government of Bolivia.

8. The Indigenous Initiative for Peace was founded by Nobel Prize laureate, and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, Ms. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, and consists of 20 indigenous leaders from all regions of the world. It held its constituting assembly in Mexico City from 9 to 11 May 1994 during which the Indigenous Initiative developed recommendations for a programme of action for the International Decade. These recommendations can be found in document E/CN.4/1994/TM.4/8.

9. The Government of Bolivia hosted a regional preparatory meeting for Governments and indigenous and non-governmental organizations from the Latin American and Caribbean region, held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from 30 May to 1 June 1994, during which an extensive set of recommendations for a programme of activities for the Decade were developed; these are contained in document E/CN.4/1994/TM.4/5/Add.1.

10. The results of these two meetings, together with a number of written suggestions from Governments and indigenous organizations, were submitted to the Technical Meeting which was held in Geneva from 20 to 22 July 1994. The Meeting was attended by many Governments and indigenous and non-governmental organizations. Among them were 43 indigenous representatives who were assisted by the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to attend the Working Group, and were able to attend the Technical Meeting thanks to a financial contribution from the Government of Canada.

11. The Technical Meeting elected the Ambassador of Costa Rica, Mr. Jorge Rhenán Segura, as its Chairman-Rapporteur, and two indigenous persons, Ms. Ingrid Washinawatok and Mr. Mikhael Todyshev, as Vice-Chairpersons. Based on the debate and the suggestions put forward, the Chairman-Rapporteur developed a synopsis, which is contained in document E/CN.4/1994/AC.4/CRP.4, entitled "Proposals and suggestions of the Technical Meeting on the International Year and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".

12. The proposals and suggestions of the Technical Meeting were submitted to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, which debated the issue at two meetings. On the basis of this debate, the Working Group developed recommendations that are contained in its report on its twelfth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/30).

13. Subsequently, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted resolution 1994/47 of 26 August 1994 in which it recommended, inter alia, that the Decade should have an operational focus and that the theme for the Decade should be "Indigenous peoples: a new relationship: partnership in action", that the International Day of Indigenous People should be observed every year on 9 August, that the Secretary-General should establish, during the first quarter of 1995, the voluntary fund and that he should consider the appointment of a board of trustees, including indigenous members, to administer the fund, and that a second technical meeting be convened prior to the thirteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to consider the final programme of action for the Decade. Drawing upon the recommendation of the Subcommission concerning the theme of the Decade, it may be desirable to consider a possible change as follows: "Indigenous people - partnership in action". The theme thus amended would retain the idea of partnership as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/128 of 17 December 1991 on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, but distinguish the Decade from the Year by emphasizing its operational and developmental focus.

14. In preparing the draft programme of activities (annex I), and the draft short-term programme of activities for the International Decade (annex II), the Secretary-General has drawn upon the proposals and suggestions of the Chairpersons of the Technical Meeting and of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the recommendations made by the preparatory meetings and other suggestions which have emerged from informal consultations with the interested parties.

15. The present report suggests a framework in which projects and programmes may be set. It identifies possible areas of activity for the Coordinator, the

United Nations system, regional intergovernmental organizations, Governments, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties, such as the media and business. Furthermore, some suggestions are made about possible themes for each year of the Decade in order to provide a focus for any workshops and meetings which may take place or information material which may be produced. The proposed themes are listed in annex III to the report.

16. It should be borne in mind that the Secretary-General, in both General Assembly resolution 48/163 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/26, is requested to submit a final comprehensive programme of action to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATOR

Indigenous people's unit

17. In its resolution 48/163, the General Assembly recommended that adequate human and financial resources be made available to the Centre for Human Rights in support of its activities related to indigenous people, and invited Governments and the United Nations system to consider providing additional resources to finance the attachment of suitable staff, including indigenous staff, to the Centre on a regionally balanced basis.

18. In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in interest in indigenous questions, not only from indigenous organizations themselves but also from the public. The International Year further contributed to this surge of international attention. The number of participants at the annual sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations has also risen rapidly. For example, nearly 800 attended the twelfth session of the Working Group, making it the largest gathering on the human rights calendar. Notwithstanding any new activities which may be coordinated from the Centre, it may be noted that the human and financial resources available for this growing mandate to undertake its existing responsibilities are limited. This fact was recognized by both the General Assembly in resolution 48/163 and the Commission on Human Rights, which, in resolution 1994/26, recommended the establishment of a unit within the Centre for Human Rights to support its activities related to indigenous people. This recommendation was approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1994/247 of 22 July 1994. It is intended that the necessary additional resources to strengthen the work on indigenous matters will be made available from the regular budget of the United Nations.

19. In addition to these proposed resources, it may be hoped that Governments and indigenous organizations will contribute by providing appropriately qualified staff to assist with the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade and other work under this mandate. Both the above-mentioned resolutions appeal for such support. During the International Year, the Centre for Human Rights, with the collaboration and support of certain Governments and indigenous organizations, pioneered a staffing programme whereby qualified indigenous administrators were seconded to assist with the work. It may be hoped that this successful practice can be sustained during the Decade and

beyond. Further initiatives for enhancing indigenous involvement in the day-to-day administration of the Decade activities are discussed below.

Consultation and coordination

20. Consultation is an underlying principle of the International Decade. The importance of consulting and cooperating with indigenous people is recognized in General Assembly resolution 48/163 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/26. The involvement of indigenous people in the day-to-day administration of the Decade's activities will prove to be one means of assuring that their viewpoint is recognized and reflected. It may also be expected that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations will continue to be a vital forum for channelling ideas and suggestions from indigenous people. Furthermore, in the course of the Decade it is likely that a permanent forum will be established which may, if so decided, examine the programme of activities on a regular and formal basis. Until such a formal arrangement is created, it is recommended that annual technical consultative meetings be held under the aegis of the Commission on Human Rights to monitor progress during the Decade. In view of the need to present a final report on a comprehensive programme of activities to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, it may be regarded as indispensable to hold a further technical meeting on the Decade prior to the thirteenth session of the Working Group in 1995.

21. The importance of holding regional consultations is also recognized. In this connection, it may be noted that the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has recommended that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations should hold sessions in different regions where indigenous peoples live. Although this has not been possible hitherto, the Centre for Human Rights has organized other meetings on indigenous issues in different countries (Chile, Greenland and the Russian Federation) and these have proved extremely useful. It may be helpful to continue this practice during the Decade and consider yearly regional workshops or consultations on issues identified as being of specific interest during the Decade.

22. The range of existing and proposed consultations to be organized by the Centre for Human Rights may be deemed adequate to ensure full and regular contact between the United Nations and indigenous peoples in accordance with the resolutions on the International Decade. In addition to these regular consultations, it is proposed that regular contact be established between the Coordinator for the Decade and the main interested parties. As far as Governments are concerned, the General Assembly has recommended the establishment of national committees or other mechanisms for the Decade. The United Nations agencies are requested to create focal points within their organizations which should serve as a mechanism for further coordination of the United Nations system on this issue. Finally, it would be desirable for indigenous organizations to indicate to the Coordinator a limited number of contact points, on a wide geographical basis, which could receive regular information or be available for consultation, and which would undertake to be in contact with other indigenous organizations and communities in the country or the region. Through such a network, the Coordinator would be better able to communicate matters of interest to the many thousands of indigenous organizations now interested in international developments.

Information

23. A prime objective for the Coordinator in the initial phase of the Decade will relate to information and communication. The successful experience of the International Year shows the usefulness of developing appropriately targeted information packs. However, preparing and disseminating information about United Nations activities, indigenous people's concerns, and other matters of interest requires that an information strategy be elaborated in consultation with Governments, indigenous people and other partners. This should identify the purpose of the information policy, the kinds of information that needs to be disseminated, the means, both human and financial, of implementation, and some ways of evaluating its effectiveness.

24. It is clear that a two-way process is involved. First, indigenous people require information about the United Nations system so that they can take advantage of the opportunities that exist; secondly, the United Nations system, if it is to develop its activities in full consultation with indigenous people, needs to be able to have more contact with its new partners. Furthermore, the Coordinator will certainly receive an increasing number of inquiries from institutions and individuals wishing to support the work being undertaken with indigenous people. In order to respond to this public goodwill, it will be necessary to develop materials for various audiences such as schools, universities, the press and business. Finally, it would be advisable for an information policy to make use of the existing indigenous and non-governmental networks.

Human rights

25. As the principal agency on human rights matters, the Centre for Human Rights is in a position to incorporate indigenous issues fully into its overall work programme. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1993/30 of 5 March 1993, and the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/133 of 20 December 1993, specifically recommended that all thematic rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups pay attention, within the framework of their mandates, to the situation of indigenous people. It may be deemed a priority to tell indigenous peoples on a regular basis about current and future activities organized by the Centre, including the meetings of treaty bodies, visits of special rapporteurs or other relevant action in the field of human rights so that they can provide appropriate information.

26. The Centre may also be in a position to support the objectives of the Decade through its advisory services programme, as was recommended in the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights. A specific part of this programme might be dedicated to providing assistance to indigenous people through training courses, fellowships and other kinds of technical support. The Centre, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, has begun a programme to translate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into indigenous languages and it may be possible to develop this activity further. Informal requests have been made by many indigenous organizations to prepare special training manuals for them on human rights and to provide expertise from the Centre to keep them informed about relevant procedures and activities. In view of the expected proclamation by the General Assembly of an international decade

for human rights education, it may be thought useful to develop specific materials and programmes in consultation with indigenous people. Furthermore, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination has a contribution to make to the elimination of discrimination affecting indigenous people.

Research and documentation

27. In its resolution 48/133 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly noted the need within the United Nations system to aggregate data specific to indigenous people. In the light of this, it is suggested that such a research project be initiated, in partnership with indigenous organizations, Governments and the relevant United Nations departments and specialized agencies. It is in the interests of all concerned to have better information about the situation of indigenous people. In particular, the United Nations agencies with responsibilities in the field can better plan and implement programmes if they fully understand and take note of the specific problems of indigenous people.

28. In view of the growing interest in indigenous questions, it has become necessary to consider establishing a database, documentation centre and photo and video library on indigenous people. In part, such a documentation centre is required to assist in the implementation of human rights procedures within the Centre itself and it is also required for the United Nations system as a whole so that the substantive areas may have a reliable source of information. In addition, indigenous organizations and scholars are increasingly interested in undertaking special studies and look to the Centre, as the lead agency on indigenous questions, for assistance. The Decade provides an opportunity to establish a database on indigenous people within the overall programme to create a human rights documentation centre.

Training and technical cooperation

29. In cooperation with the advisory services of the Centre, a number of opportunities exist to provide training and technical assistance to indigenous peoples. The voluntary fund to be established for the Decade could provide support for indigenous initiatives in the field of human rights and might support technical assistance projects requested by them. Such assistance might include funds to help indigenous people with communications, in particular so that they can be linked to any network developed by the United Nations in connection with its information policy. Other areas which might be considered under the rubric of technical assistance include support for infrastructure such as offices, training inside and outside the human rights area, diplomatic skills, and practical technical problems, such as those related to land demarcation.

30. It may also be thought desirable for the Coordinator to establish a special fellowship programme for indigenous people separate from and in addition to that created in the advisory services area. Such a scheme could provide cost-of-living grants to indigenous people for periods of up to six months or more so that they could work with the Coordinator. Such a programme may also be extended to other areas of the United Nations so that indigenous people, particularly from developing countries, have an opportunity to contribute

through their experience to the work of the United Nations and gain firsthand knowledge of the Organization.

Publications

31. In view of the need to inform policy makers and opinion formers, it would be helpful to develop a special series of books on indigenous people during the Decade. Themes for the series should be of public interest and could include issues such as land, the environment, women, culture, indigenous legal systems and political institutions, development and health. One book could be published in each year of the Decade. Note may be taken of the successful series on women which was developed by the Non-governmental Liaison Service in cooperation with the various United Nations agencies.

Meetings

32. It would be useful to consider possible meetings that might take place during the Decade. Note may be taken of existing and proposed meetings: the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, a possible further technical meeting on the Decade, and an expert seminar on land and indigenous people. It may be advisable to hold one international meeting on the chosen subject. In order to involve as many indigenous people as possible, it may also be desirable to hold regional preparatory workshops.

33. A further consideration might also be whether to hold a major conference during the Decade, perhaps mid-Decade, or at the end of the Decade, in order to evaluate the programme of activities or for some other major purpose. If such a conference is considered desirable, it will be necessary to make preparations well in advance in order to ensure its success.

Partnership projects

34. The Coordinator for the Decade is entrusted with the task of stimulating all interested parties to develop projects in partnership with indigenous people. Such initiatives may be encouraged through the facilitation of meetings and other consultations but, as was initiated during the International Year, it may be considered useful to adopt a more active role. Such a role might include developing projects in partnership with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In addition, it might be thought desirable to sponsor certain activities, particularly those developed by indigenous organizations or non-governmental entities.

Public relations

35. Consideration should also be given to the public relations activities to be developed by the Coordinator for the Year. It may be useful to consider whether a special logo or design motif could be developed for the Decade which would be used by all projects sponsored by the Coordinator. Furthermore, the technical meeting may wish to discuss the proposal to recommend to the Secretary-General the appointment of Goodwill Ambassadors for the Decade who might be drawn from a list of well-known indigenous personalities representing different regions and from diverse fields, including the arts, sport or business.

International Day of Indigenous People

36. In resolution 48/163, indigenous people were invited by the General Assembly to suggest a possible date for an International Day of Indigenous People. To this end, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, as requested in the resolution, endorsed, in its report on its twelfth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/30), the proposal made by a large number of indigenous representatives, including Mrs. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, that the International Day of Indigenous People be observed annually on 9 August. This date is the anniversary of the first meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, in 1982. That day marked the beginning of the recognition of indigenous people and their struggle for recognition by the United Nations system, and was therefore considered appropriate as a time of shared celebration by the United Nations and indigenous people throughout the world.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

37. In its resolution 48/163, proclaiming the Decade, the General Assembly identified the contribution the United Nations system could make to the programme of activities for the Decade. The United Nations agencies were asked to appoint focal points, to consider how best they might contribute to the success of the Decade, and to increase their efforts to take into special account the needs of indigenous people in their budgeting and programming. Reports from the United Nations system on possible activities that might be carried out during the Decade are contained in document E/CN.4/AC.4/1994/TM.4/6. The Coordinator was also requested to collaborate and consult with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system concerning the coordination of activities for the Decade.

38. During the International Year, increased contact between indigenous peoples and the United Nations system led to greater awareness of their concerns. Although efforts were made to address these concerns, more remains to be done. The organs of the United Nations system are better placed to build upon the lessons learned in the Year, and improve the access of indigenous peoples to their programmes. The agencies expressed the general view that they needed to learn and understand more about indigenous peoples before they could develop adequate programmes of benefit to them.

39. In the consultation held between the United Nations agencies and indigenous peoples following the official opening of the International Year on 11 December 1992, a number of suggestions were made that are worth recalling. First, indigenous peoples noted that their major problem in relation to intergovernmental agencies was gaining access to them in order to (a) obtain information on their programmes; (b) provide information on the real situation of indigenous communities; (c) present proposals and suggestions for activities in favour of indigenous communities; and (d) contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes by foreseeing, measuring and describing their impact on indigenous peoples. Secondly, it was indicated that indigenous representatives needed to acquire greater knowledge of the possibilities, constraints, policies and procedures of the agencies. Training and capacity-building programmes should be developed to meet that need.

Thirdly, there was widespread ignorance of the situation of indigenous peoples throughout the world which the United Nations system could help to combat. Fourthly, there was need for indigenous peoples to have access to development funding. The complete report of this meeting is contained in document E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/1.

40. One conclusion that may be drawn from the consultation is that further direct contacts between specific United Nations organizations and indigenous people would bring benefits to both parties. It may be thought useful to continue to develop consultations at the national and regional levels. The role of the Coordinator may well be to facilitate and encourage links between indigenous communities and peoples and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular on a thematic basis.

41. It may be envisaged, therefore, that under the theme of development the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and certain other agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) might work closely to develop mechanisms for the involvement of indigenous peoples in the planning and implementation of projects. Under the theme of education and culture, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) could be expected to play a prominent role; under the theme of the environment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the newly established Commission on Sustainable Development could be expected to contribute their experience. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) might be able to consider how it could involve specialist indigenous child-care organizations in its work and the World Health Organization (WHO) might develop, in consultation with indigenous peoples, possible projects of mutual interest. Other United Nations organizations which may be concerned with indigenous people include United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT (ITC), World Tourism Organization (WTO), and International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

42. In the area of self-development, UNDP, as well as the intergovernmental development banks such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, might consider the possibilities of directing funds to indigenous beneficiaries. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) might specifically consider ways in which its programme could bring assistance to indigenous women.

43. As the governing bodies of the United Nations agencies meet during the first year of the Decade, it is to be hoped that the necessary authority and budget allocation can be agreed upon to allow indigenous projects and programmes

to develop. It is encouraging to note, for example, the adoption of resolution WHA47.27 on the Decade at the forty-seventh World Health Assembly in May 1994. In that resolution, the Assembly agreed that the organization should participate in the planning and implementation of the objectives of the Decade, requested the establishment of a core advisory group of indigenous representatives with special knowledge of the health needs and resources of their communities, and called for the promotion of, respect for and maintenance of, indigenous knowledge, traditions and remedies, in particular, their pharmacopoeia.

44. At the Technical Meeting held from 20 to 22 July 1994, the representative of UNESCO outlined the organization's general perspectives of action for the Decade. Those would evolve around six major directions. First, the development of endogenous capacities of indigenous people at the national, regional and international levels through training of leadership by setting up specialized courses and granting fellowships. That programme was aimed specifically at indigenous leaders and craftworkers. Secondly, UNESCO would provide support to help indigenous people acquire the abilities needed to protect their cultural heritage and promote their language. Thirdly, in the field of education, UNESCO would undertake pilot projects with a view to developing specialized programmes and manuals adapted to indigenous communities. Fourthly, it would encourage indigenous traditional knowledge concerning the preservation of local ecology for medical and nutritional purposes through programmes set up during the International Year. Fifthly, it would implement a series of educational and cultural projects to facilitate the integration of migrant indigenous people into city life. Lastly, UNESCO intended to develop inter-institutional cooperation.

45. Likewise, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) reported on an in-depth study that was being undertaken into the land and basic services requirements of indigenous people. The results of the study would be circulated world wide in the course of the Decade. FAO also indicated that it would step up its efforts to ensure that more attention was given to indigenous issues in its programmes. The World Bank drew attention to the Small Grants Programme as one potential source of funding for some of the Decade activities. At the twelfth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the representative of ILO informed the Working Group that his organization would convene a meeting of United Nations agencies to coordinate practical activities and develop guidelines on technical assistance to indigenous people.

46. In May 1994, the forty-seventh World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA47.27, in which it called upon the Director-General, inter alia, to increase cooperation between WHO and other United Nations organizations to help meet the health needs of indigenous people, provide Members States with technical support, to assist Governments and indigenous people in addressing indigenous health needs in a culturally effective manner, to consider the contribution WHO might make to promoting respect for, and maintenance of, indigenous knowledge, and to ensure that relevant research projects undertaken by WHO and other United Nations organizations were conducted in consultation with, and for the benefit of, indigenous people and communities, such projects being undertaken by indigenous people themselves where appropriate.

III. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

47. It may be recalled that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) played an important role in the organization of the United Nations Technical Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Environment which took place in Santiago in May 1993. Based upon this kind of experience, the regional commissions should consider how they can strengthen regional contacts between indigenous peoples and the United Nations agencies and cooperate in the organization of regional workshops on themes of interest. Note is taken of the resolution adopted by the Organization of American States on 9 June 1994, in which the Secretary-General of OAS was entrusted with coordinating activities for the Decade in his organization.

IV. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

48. In its resolution 48/163, the General Assembly invited Governments to establish national committees, which would serve as a mechanism for consultation between indigenous people and interested national partners; these could include government departments, national institutions promoting human rights, non-governmental organizations, and other groups, such as universities and schools. During the preparatory year for the Decade, some committees have been established. However, no specific information has been received concerning national programmes and goals; it would be useful to include information about national objectives and programmes in the final report to be presented to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

V. INDIGENOUS ACTIVITIES

49. As was realized during the International Year, a certain number of activities may be carried out by indigenous people in the course of the Decade. Indeed the Decade should serve as a framework for local and community events and projects to be undertaken by indigenous people. The activities that form the specific indigenous contribution to the Decade could be those realized without, or with only limited, external support. The Coordinator for the International Year included many projects of this kind in the calendar of events; it would be desirable to continue to publicize indigenous events during the Decade. This not only provides an important record but also helps indigenous organizations cross-fertilize and plan more effectively the use of their limited resources.

50. The hope has also been expressed that indigenous organizations will develop local, national and regional networks which can be linked to the Coordinator's office. In view of the growth of interest on the part of indigenous organizations in international activities, it would facilitate the task of the indigenous peoples unit serving this expanding mandate greatly if information could be passed through the larger indigenous organizations directly to communities.

51. In order for the Decade to be a success, indigenous peoples will need to identify priorities, organize themselves locally, nationally and regionally to assure contact with the United Nations system, and elaborate suitable projects.

VI. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

52. In the course of the International Year, a number of special activities were carried out by non-governmental organizations. These included the publication of reports and books, special issues of journals and newsletters, and the organization of events, seminars, film festivals, and other means of raising public awareness. Some commitments have already been made by the non-governmental community and it may be hoped that its educational and awareness-raising programmes will be expanded during the Decade. The programmes of the human rights and environmental movements are of particular importance. Those non-governmental organizations supporting development activities should consult with indigenous peoples when they elaborate programmes for the Decade. It may also be useful for these organizations to inform the Coordinator about their proposed programmes so that he can communicate a list of non-governmental partner organizations supporting indigenous projects and programmes.

VII. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER PARTNERS

53. Several other organizations, institutions or groups may be in a position to contribute to the success of the Decade. These potential partners include the press, independent film-makers, artists, musicians, universities, schools, foundations, religious bodies, businesses and many other institutions and groups. Some information concerning projects to be undertaken by such partners during the Decade has been communicated to the Coordinator. It would be desirable to include examples of such projects and hear of other initiatives so that further reference could be made in the final report on the Decade to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

VIII. FINANCING OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE DECADE

54. The experience of the International Year demonstrated the need for resources to be made available to indigenous peoples for projects. Often the projects required by indigenous communities are relatively small-scale and make use of locally available skills and labour. The Voluntary Fund for the International Year attracted more than 300 projects of this kind and it may be expected that indigenous people will continue to look to the United Nations, and in particular the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade established by the Secretary-General, for support.

Voluntary Fund for the International Decade

55. In its resolution 48/163, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Decade and accept contributions from Governments and other entities. An important consideration is to determine the purpose of the voluntary fund for the International Decade. The Voluntary Fund for the International Year received over $500,000 in contributions for projects and nearly 40 indigenous projects of up to $15,000 were approved in the areas of development, the environment, education, health and human rights. A certain number of projects which could not be supported by the Voluntary Fund

were transmitted, following consultations, to other potential funding sources including Governments, non-governmental organizations and private companies.

56. The voluntary fund for the International Decade should continue to support projects in all the areas identified in the General Assembly resolution. It may be noted that, if the voluntary fund supports a range of projects in these areas and substantial funds are raised during the Decade, then more formal management, accounting and follow-up procedures, including field missions to hold consultations with indigenous communities, will need to be established. The Coordinator, in collaboration with Governments and indigenous people, will decide upon guidelines for project applications. The voluntary fund is also a source of funding for consultancies, information activities, publications, meetings and other activities that promote the objective of the Decade. It would also be useful to involve indigenous people in an advisory role, either through participation in a board of trustees or in some other less formal and less expensive procedure for consultation. In this regard, it may be desirable to examine the possibility of holding such a consultation at a time when indigenous people are in Geneva.

57. It is recommended that regular pledging conferences be held in the course of the Decade to assure proper and adequate financing of activities. Consideration should also be given to those methods that are likely to bring about the greatest level of support. Funds should be sought from non-governmental sources. In this regard, it may be noted that certain contributions to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year came from private sources, including individuals and businesses. However, several offers to raise large contributions through concerts, the donation of art works or other means were unsuccessful. This may be borne in mind during the Decade so as not to raise false expectations when bountiful entrepreneurs offer their help.

58. It may be thought useful, in consultation with indigenous people and United Nations agencies with experience in this field, to develop guidelines indicating immediate and long-term objectives, means of implementation, breakdown of costs, evaluation, follow-up and other matters to assist applicants in preparing well-defined and clearly presented requests. A complementary guide might include a list of sources of funding of projects for the Decade including governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Such a guide might provide practical information about the kinds of projects supported, the financial limits, contact addresses and reporting obligations.

Advisory services

59. It may be recalled that the Centre for Human Rights administers several voluntary funds which may be of interest to indigenous people. The Voluntary Fund for the Third Decade against Racism, the Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Contemporary Slavery, and the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation all provide assistance for projects, meetings or other activities within their mandates. The Fund for Advisory Services may be particularly useful since it provides assistance for training, fellowships, workshops and other activities which promote human rights. The Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that the Fund for Advisory Services should support activities of indigenous people.

Other intergovernmental funds

60. A number of possibilities for the funding of indigenous programmes and projects exist in other parts of the United Nations system. For example, both the World Bank and UNDP administer small grants schemes for which indigenous people can apply. At the regional level, the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union may also be sources of assistance. ILO provides support to indigenous people through its technical assistance programme. A question that has to be considered is how existing funds of this kind can be strengthened and whether there is a need for establishing other opportunities for indigenous people.

Governmental funds

61. During the International Year, several Governments set aside funds for indigenous people from their bilateral aid programmes. It may be useful to examine the results of these initiatives and propose the extension or enhancing of this source of assistance. Governments may wish to provide details about existing funds available from the development aid programmes and from Embassies so that the Coordinator can transmit the information to indigenous people.

Non-governmental and private sector funds

62. Many non-governmental organizations have long-established relations with indigenous organizations and provide assistance for projects. It may be thought useful for the non-governmental community to provide such information to indigenous organizations in the countries in which they work.

63. There has been a growing interest from parts of the private sector in assisting indigenous people. These concerned businesses often consider their ethical and environmental policies as part of the public image of their organization. During the International Year, the Coordinator welcomed support for indigenous peoples from all sectors, including business. It has to be considered how relationships can be developed between the United Nations and the private sector so that this important source of potential support can be encouraged to participate.

Fund-raising plans

64. No professional fund-raiser was hired during the International Year and all contributions were achieved through the written and oral appeals of the Coordinator and the staff of the Centre for Human Rights. Certain modest entrepreneurial efforts were made only when time could be found. Sometimes these were successful. However, it cannot be expected that a comprehensive fund-raising plan can be developed and implemented without a full-time, qualified and proven fund-raiser, and without a budget. Consideration should thus be given to appointing a fund-raiser for the Decade who would be charged with exploring new sources of funding for indigenous programmes. Given this extra resource, consideration may be given to other sources of funding which can occasionally bring substantial contributions. These might include the organization of a special fund-raising concert, the development of some products, such as T-shirts, cards or diaries, which could be sold for the

benefit of the voluntary fund, and the arrangement of a sale of works of art. Another possible source of income might be a charge for the use of any United Nations logo or artwork that might be designed for the Decade.

65. The success of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People will depend on how successfully realistic targets are set, and whether sufficient funds are made available to establish the practical programmes to attain them. The United Nations system is pledged to working together to ensure that 10 years of action bring improvements in the daily lives of indigenous people in all countries.

Annex I

Draft programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

A. Objectives

1. Taking into account General Assembly resolution 48/163, the main objective of the Decade is the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, health, culture and education.

2. The theme of the Decade is to be amended to "Indigenous people - partnership in action". This theme, while retaining continuity with that of the International Year, emphasizes that the focus of the Decade is on operational activities to strengthen international cooperation. Underlying the activities of the Decade are the principles of cooperation, consultation and participation of indigenous peoples.

3. The specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international and national agencies, as well as communities and private enterprises, should devote special attention to development activities of benefit to indigenous communities.

4. A major objective of the Decade is education of indigenous and non-indigenous societies concerning the situation, cultures, rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples. In particular, efforts should be made to cooperate with the decade for human rights education.

5. An objective of the Decade is the establishment of institutions and mechanisms for the full and active participation of indigenous peoples at the international, regional and national levels in matters of concern to them.

6. An objective of the Decade is to further the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to indigenous peoples in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular the recommendation that consideration be given to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system.

7. An objective of the Decade is the adoption of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the further development of international standards for the protection and promotion of the human rights of indigenous peoples, including effective means of monitoring and guaranteeing those rights.

8. The formulation of the objectives of the Decade should fix practical and quantifiable outcomes that will improve the lives of indigenous peoples and that can be evaluated half-way through the Decade and at its end.

B. Activities of the major actors

1. United Nations observances

9. A formal opening-day ceremony by the Secretary-General in New York in connection with the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, with representation from indigenous people.

10. A formal observance each year on the International Day of Indigenous People, in New York, Geneva and other offices of the United Nations.

11. Official observance of the Decade as part of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and other international conferences related to the aims and themes of the Decade.

12. Issuance of a special series of stamps by the United Nations Postal Administration highlighting the goals and themes of the Decade.

2. Activities of the Coordinator and the Centre for Human Rights

13. Establish an adequately staffed and resourced indigenous peoples unit.

14. Request Governments to second qualified indigenous people, in consultation with interested national indigenous organizations, to assist in the administration of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

15. Create a fellowship programme, in collaboration with the Advisory Services of the Centre for Human Rights, to assist indigenous people wishing to gain experience in the different branches of the Centre for Human Rights, and in other parts of the United Nations system. Such fellowships might be available for indigenous research and other similar activities.

16. Open a roster of indigenous organizations and experts in various fields who might be available to assist United Nations agencies as partners or consultants.

17. Create an advisory group of persons with relevant knowledge of indigenous issues, and acting in their personal capacity, to advise the Coordinator for the Decade and United Nations organizations, at their request. The members of this advisory group could include eminent indigenous persons, government representatives, independent experts and officials of the specialized agencies.

18. Hold annual coordination meetings of Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and indigenous and non-governmental organizations to consider Decade activities and develop an integrated, action-oriented strategy to advance the interests of indigenous people.

19. Compile, on the basis of communications of the focal points in the United Nations system organizations, a regular newssheet containing information about

meetings of interest, major or innovatory projects, new sources of funding, policy developments and other news to be distributed to Decade partners.

20. Encourage the development of partnership projects to address specific regional or thematic issues bringing together Governments, indigenous people and several appropriate United Nations agencies.

21. Establish a communications programme linking the Coordinator to the national committees for the International Decade, the focal points of the United Nations system, and to a network of indigenous organizations and communities; also develop a database of indigenous organizations and other relevant information, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, Governments, academic institutions and other relevant bodies.

22. Prepare, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, information about indigenous people for distribution to the general public.

23. Develop a research programme, in collaboration with Governments, United Nations departments and specialized agencies and indigenous organizations, to aggregate data specific to indigenous people.

24. Organize meetings on relevant themes of concern to indigenous people.

25. Launch a series of publications on indigenous issues to inform policy makers, opinion-formers, students and other interested people.

26. Develop a training programme on human rights for indigenous people, including the preparation of relevant training materials, when possible in indigenous languages.

27. Establish a board of trustees or advisory group, including indigenous people, to assist the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade.

28. Develop, in collaboration with Governments, indigenous people and the appropriate United Nations agencies, projects and programmes for support by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

3. United Nations public information activities

29. Production and dissemination of a series of posters using designs by indigenous artists.

30. Organization of a lecture series at United Nations Information Centres and campuses linked to the United Nations University, using indigenous speakers.

31. Publication in indigenous languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

4. United Nations system operational activities

32. Establish focal points for indigenous issues in all appropriate organizations of the United Nations system.

33. Adopt programmes of action for the Decade in the governing bodies of specialized agencies of the United Nations system in their own fields of competence.

34. Prepare, publish and disseminate a manual containing practical information on how indigenous peoples could have access to agencies of the United Nations.

35. Develop research on the socio-economic conditions of indigenous peoples, in collaboration with indigenous organizations and other appropriate partners, with a view to publishing regular reports.

36. Establish appropriate mechanisms and practices to ensure the participation of indigenous organizations and experts in the design and implementation of national and regional programmes of concern to them.

37. Hold regular inter-agency consultations with indigenous peoples to exchange views and develop strategies on the programme of action for the Decade.

38. Hold consultations with national committees and development agencies to consider possibilities of cooperation in the activities of the Decade.

39. Develop training materials for indigenous peoples on human rights, including the translation of the main international instruments into different indigenous languages, and give them wide distribution. Consider the possibility of using radio programmes in order to gain access to indigenous communities not having written languages.

40. Prepare a database on national legislation on various forms of self-government or other matters of particular relevance to indigenous peoples.

41. Hold consultations of all interested parties on the themes of development, the environment, health and education and culture with a view to elaborating possible programmes in these areas.

5. Activities of regional organizations

42. Consider regional programmes of action to promote and support the objectives of the Decade.

43. Hold regional meetings on indigenous issues with existing regional organizations with a view to strengthening coordination, taking advantage of the United Nations system machinery and promoting the direct and active participation of indigenous peoples of the different regions. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations could consider the possibility of holding its sessions in conjunction with these meetings.

44. Develop training courses and technical assistance programmes for indigenous peoples in areas such as project design and management.

45. Make funds at the regional level available to activities benefiting indigenous peoples.

46. Draw up regional instruments for the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples.

6. Activities of Member States

47. Establish national committees for the Decade or similar mechanisms, to include indigenous people, all relevant departments and other interested parties, to mobilize public support for the various activities connected with the Decade.

48. Use part of the resources of existing programmes for activities of direct benefit to indigenous peoples.

49. Develop, in collaboration with indigenous communities, national plans for the Decade, including main objectives and targets, fixing quantitative outcomes and taking into account the need for resources and possible sources of financing.

50. Adopt measures to increase knowledge among the non-indigenous population, starting at the elementary school level, concerning the history, traditions, culture and rights of indigenous peoples, with special emphasis on the education of teachers at all levels.

51. Examine the possibility of ratifying ILO Convention 169, in close consultation with the indigenous organizations of each country.

52. Legally recognize the existence, rights and languages of indigenous peoples, preferably through constitutional reforms and the adoption of new laws to improve their legal status and guarantee their territorial and economic rights.

53. Implement chapter 26 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. Activities of indigenous organizations

54. Establish an information network which can be linked to the Coordinator and facilitate communications between the United Nations system and indigenous communities.

55. International indigenous organizations should develop information for local communities concerning the goals of the Decade and the activities of the United Nations.

56. Establish and support indigenous schools and university-level institutions and collaborate with the relevant United Nations agencies; participate in the revision of school texts and the contents of programmes of study in order to eliminate discriminatory contents and promote the development of indigenous cultures; develop indigenous curricula for schools and research institutions.

57. Create documentation centres, archives and in situ museums concerning indigenous peoples, their cultures, laws, beliefs and values, with material that could be used to inform and educate non-indigenous people on these matters. Indigenous people should participate on a preferential basis in the administration of these centres.

58. Establish networks of indigenous journalists and launch indigenous periodicals at the regional and international levels.

59. The major areas of concern for indigenous peoples are the funding of their activities and projects, territorial rights, respect for indigenous culture and rights, education, communication, environmental issues, health, recognition of their status as "peoples" and not "people", improvement of their living conditions, cultural and intellectual property, consultation with indigenous peoples and support for their traditional political systems.

8. Activities of non-governmental organizations and other interested parties, including educational establishments, the media and business

60. Cooperate with indigenous organizations, communities and peoples in the planning of activities for the Decade.

61. Create radio and television centres in indigenous regions to provide information on the problems and proposals of indigenous peoples and to improve communication between indigenous communities.

62. Promote indigenous cultures through the publication of books, the production of compact discs, and the organization of various artistic and cultural events which enhance knowledge of and serve to develop indigenous cultures.

63. Involve different social and cultural groups in the activities planned for the Decade.

Annex II

Draft short-term programme of activities for the Decade

January 1995-December 1996

1995

Theme: promoting social development and strengthening the role of indigenous women

First quarter

Expert meeting on land rights and claims of indigenous people

Establishment of the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Preparation and dissemination of a presentation video on the Decade

Second quarter

Publication of the first book of a series on contemporary indigenous themes

Eighth session of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Establishment of a fellowship programme for indigenous people

Initiation of a communications programme linking the Coordinator to focal points of the United Nations system, national committees for the Decade and indigenous networks

Third quarter

Technical meeting on the Decade to finalize recommendations for the programme of action, with the special themes of indigenous people and social development and indigenous women

Thirteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations

First session of the advisory group of the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade

International Day of Indigenous People, 9 August

Fourth quarter

Inter-agency consultation on practical measures to implement the programme of activities for the Decade: under special consideration - a preliminary project outline for a systematic research programme on the socio-economic status of indigenous people

Regional workshop on indigenous women

Submission of the Secretary-General's final report on the programme of activities for the Decade

Publication of poster, brochure, media kit and other information material for the Decade

1996

Theme: improving living conditions and health

First quarter

Preparation and dissemination of a manual containing practical information about United Nations organizations for use by indigenous organizations

Regional workshop on traditional medicine

Issuance of regular information on United Nations activities for the Decade to the network of focal points, national committees and indigenous organizations

Second quarter

Publication of the second book of a series on contemporary indigenous themes

Ninth session of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Third quarter

Technical meeting on the Decade, with the special theme of indigenous people and their living conditions and health

Fourteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations

Second session of the advisory group of the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade

International Day of Indigenous People, 9 August

Fourth quarter

Expert meeting on protection of the heritage of indigenous peoples

Annex III

Possible themes for years and projects

1995	Promoting social development and strengthening the role of indigenous women
1996	Improving living conditions and health
1997	Restoring relationships with land and resources
1998	Language, education and culture
1999	Law, justice and human rights
2000	Achieving environmentally sound development
2001	Work
2002	Self-government and self-determination
2003	Peace and security
2004	Partnership in international action.